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EAGLES NEED HOLIDAY MIRACLE

The Eagles haven't given fans much to be thankful for. 30

Michael B. Jordan boxes his way through Philly in 'Creed.' 20-21

Jill Scott is ready to feel the Philly love at the WDAS Holiday Jam. 22

FIRE FIGHT

A high-speed chase Tuesday morning ended with a state trooper wounded and the shooter in custody. 4

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CHICAGO COP CHARGED

1 A white Chicago policeman was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder in the October 2014 shooting of black teen Laquan McDonald, a state prosecutor said in a statement. The officer, Jason Van Dyke, was denied bail at a hearing in Chicago's main criminal courthouse. REUTERS

PAKISTANI SENTENCED

2 A Pakistani man was sentenced by a U.S. judge to 40 years in prison Tuesday for plotting to bomb a shopping center in England as part of an Al Qaeda plan to carry out attacks in Europe and the United States. Abid Naseer, 29, had faced up to life in prison following his conviction by a federal jury in Brooklyn, New York, in March on charges including that he provided material support to the Islamic militant group. REUTERS

ROCKET LAND A SUCCESS

3 Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said Tuesday his space transportation company, Blue Origin, plans about two more years of test flights before it will offer rides to passengers. Blue Origin successfully landed a suborbital rocket back at its launch site, a key step in its drive to make reusable rockets, the company said. REUTERS

HELPING HANDS

7 Sharif Karim (L) and Bill Dawley (r.) help bring turkeys from a Wal-Mart truck to Faith Temple Church on Tuesday.

MAIN PHOTO BY MARIA S. YOUNG , ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

5 SHOT NEAR PROTEST

4 Police are searching for three white men in the shooting of five people near a Minneapolis police station where demonstrators had gathered for more than a week to protest the shooting of an unarmed black man by officers. None of the injuries were believed to be life-threatening late Monday. REUTERS

2015 RISE IN HOMICIDES

5 A gunman remains at large after police said two men were shot dead inside a home in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia on Monday evening, bringing the city's 2015 homicide total to 249. Detectives spent Monday evening searching a home on the 3600 block of Jasper Street, ABC reported, looking for evidence after a gunman allegedly fired a barrage of bullets inside the home. NATE HOMAN

LOCALS PLAYS PARADE

6 A local university's marching band has been selected to perform this Thursday in the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. West Chester University's Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band was reportedly one of four marching bands accepted out of 138 bands that applied to march in the famous parade. METRO

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In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city. This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

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A high-speed chase ended in a fiery blaze on 676. Below, troopers clear the crime scene. Inset, a passenger in the vehicle was still being sought Tuesday evening. MWAZHUWA KURETU/MATTHEW LEISTER/PROVIDED

'I heard pop-pop-pop'

A high-speed chase Tuesday ended with a fiery blaze and a shot cop on 676.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A quiet Tuesday morning quickly turned to chaos after the sounds of morning commuters was interrupted by gunfire.

Gerald Spratt, 53, of North Philly, was waiting for SEPTA's 48 bus on 22nd Street when he heard the gunshots, he said.

"I heard pop-pop-pop-pop-pop pop-pop-pop" he described. "I thought it was firecrackers. When I heard it again, I was like, 'That's not firecrackers.' Then I came and saw the smoke."

What Spratt saw was like something out of a Hollywood action movie. A speeding car evading state police troopers had crashed into an empty school bus, engulfing both in flame — and the driver had staggered out of the car and shot a trooper.

"I'd just come from the foot doctor's. I couldn't believe it," said Spratt.

Trooper Patrick R. Casey, 31, took a bullet in the shoulder during the chase but was in good condition Tuesday night.

The chaos began when a field training officer and a new trooper began a routine traffic stop on I-76 near the University City exit over an expired registration sticker.

The two-occupant vehicle they pulled over had four passengers.

One passenger was handcuffed and placed in a police car, and two were seated on the highway median, when the fourth dove back into the car and sped away. Troopers gave chase, as the passengers on the median both fled.

Casey chased the car onto 676, where the driver was shooting out the window at him when he crashed into a school bus empty except the driver — which had just dropped off a load of children at St. Katherine's Day School in Wynnewood.

"Upon impact with the school bus, the suspect jumped from the car and continued to fire at Trooper Casey, at which time he [Casey] began to return fire as he was seated in his car," said state police captain James Raykovitz.

Andy Ocasio saw part of the incident from his window in a nearby office.

"I saw the gentleman leaned against the car, there were cops everywhere with their guns drawn. He just started running," Ocasio said.

The shooter, 17, has not been identified. Police said he will be charged with attempted murder.

Charges against his fellow passengers have not yet been announced.

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DOJ won't probe Fattah Jr. complaints

Fattah Jr. SAM NEWHOUSE

One arm of the Justice Department will not investigate a claim by Chaka Fattah Jr. that prosecutors leaked grand jury material about him.

But another arm of the department is examining claims about Fattah's ability to defend himself in court after an FBI agent Richard Haag leaked information about a raid at his Center City condo.

Fattah, who was convicted in Nov. 5 of bank and tax fraud charges, claimed in a letter after his conviction that he lost his consulting gig after word of the raid reached the media, and that he was forced to defend himself because he could not afford an attorney.

He was informed in a letter from the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility that a portion of his claims would not be investigated.

But Fattah has claimed victory, because the letter could be interpreted to mean that the Office of Inspector General is reviewing other claims.

"It's fair to suggest there will be an investigation into the media leaks," Fattah Jr. said.

The government did not respond to requests for comment.

Fattah's father, U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, is charged with offenses related to bribery and corruption. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges. DAN KELLEY

Protect your pets this Thanksgiving

The holiday isn't dangerous only for turkeys.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

Kids play with dogs. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Thanksgiving — it can be dangerous for animals, and we're not just talking about turkeys.

So says Dr. Kenneth Drobatz, chief of the emergency service at Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital, who advises dog owners to fight the impulse to share scraps with Fido.

"They don't tolerate dietary changes the way humans do," Drobatz said.

A heaping helping of table scraps could give dogs diarrhea, lead to vomiting or — in rare instances — lead to pancreatitis, a painful inflammation of the pancreas that can be life-threatening.

Drobatz said it's a problem he sees regularly.

Less common but probably more well-known are problems related to eating turkey bones. Drobatz said the emergency room doesn't see these cases too often because owners are aware of the dangers chicken bones pose to pets.

When dogs eat them, they can break into shards, leading to cuts and punctures of the esophogus.

Grapes and raisins — sometimes they are in stuffing — can lead to kidney failure in dogs.

Cats are a bit safer around the holidays, but they aren't out of the woods.

People sometimes bring in outdoor plants this time of year, or used flowers for table displays.

Some plants — especially lilies, can be toxic to cats. Drobatz said cats can be discriminating in what they eat. They may not go after table scraps, but decide to nibble on plants every once in a while.

Drobatz's advice for letting pets share in the festivities?

Buy them pet treats.

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Concert security up post Paris attacks

Philly concert-goers are seeing increased security in the wake of the Paris attacks.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Crowds at the Stevie Wonder concert in Dilworth Park. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

As the Friday the 13th tragedy at the hands of terrorists in Paris unfolded for innocent natives and tourists alike, its danger extended to artist-musicians and concert-going fans as the worst of the melee — 89 dead at an Eagles of Death Metal concert — hit one of that city's most popular live venues, the Bataclan.

While the weekend of November 14 found U2 and other bands immediately canceling gigs in Paris, entire European tours were scrapped in the aftermath of the slaughter perpetrated by ISIS.

"In light of this senseless violence, the closing of borders, and international mourning, we can't continue right now," said the Foo Fighters in a statement.

"This is crazy and it sucks. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who was hurt or who lost a loved one."

The after-effects of the massacre at the Bataclan were evident when Bob Dylan demanded armed guards be placed in the audience while he performed in Bologna, Italy.

Now, with terror alerts spreading to America and propaganda videos released by ISIS making reference to New York City (the city's mayor, Bill De Blasio, has said repeatedly since the release of the video that there is no specific credible threat against the city) and other U.S. cities, Philadelphia is feeling its way through additional security measures at concerts.

Efforts were ramped up at chart-topping rapper Jeezy's soldout show at Northern Liberties' Union Transfer last Wednesday.

The mood was jovial and the line moved swiftly, but the venue's usual pat-downs were extended to two pit stops from the usual one.

On Thursday at Upper Darby's Tower Theater, My Morning Jacket — a mellow indie-rock band — there were several pat-downs and metal detectors, but lines moved without incident.

Live Nation, one of the largest live-event ticketing and promotion companies in the U.S., could not discuss specific security measures for any of individual artists or venues, local or national.

"Due to the recent events in Paris and in an abundance of caution, we have implemented heightened security procedures globally.

"However, because of the sensitive nature of these protocols, we cannot elaborate further on the specific details," said Live Nation Entertainment in a statement.

Few local venues contacted could or would comment on security measures for artists or audiences.

"We have been in contact with the FBI, Homeland Security and the Philadelphia police, and — at this time — there is no direct or indirect threat to the Kimmel campus," said Leslie Patterson-Tyler, director of media relations for the Kimmel Center, the Merriam and the Academy of Music.

"We have reinforced the training of our security staff according as well and increased security as a precaution only."

But fans are definitely feeling it.

"We waited so long to get in, longer than usual," says Dylan DelloBuono, who witnessed increased wait time and more metal detectors than usual at The Fillmore's soldout Travis Scott show last Friday. "There's definitely more security around."

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Hollande says US, France to step up strikes in Syria, Iraq

Obama emphasized the long friendship between France and the United States and pledged to step up efforts to combat terrorism alongside its European partners.

A French Rafale fighter aircraft lands aboard the French Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, after a flight on Nov. 23, 2015, at eastern Mediterranean Sea, as part of operation Chammal in Syria and Iraq against the Islamic State. GETTY IMAGES

French President Francois Hollande said on Tuesday the United States and France have agreed to step up strikes in Syria and Iraq to target Islamic State militants after the deadly Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

Hollande, appearing at a White House news conference with President Barack Obama, said the two leaders agreed on the importance of closing the Turkish border to limit the movement of extremists into Europe.

Obama emphasized the long friendship between France and the United States and pledged to step up efforts to combat terrorism alongside its European partners.

"As Americans, we stand by our friends in good times and in bad, no matter what," Obama said.

Hollande is trying to rally support this week for a more coordinated international campaign to destroy Islamic State. He is due to visit Moscow on Thursday.

"We are here today to declare that the United States and France stand united in total solidarity to deliver justice to these terrorists and those who sent them and to defend our nations," Obama said.

Obama called Islamic State a "barbaric terrorist group," adding that "its murderous ideology poses a serious threat to all of us. It cannot be tolerated. It must be destroyed. And we must do it together."

Hollande said the United States and France agreed to step up strikes in Syria and Iraq against Islamic State. But Hollande said France will not put troops on the ground in Syria to fight Islamic State.

"France will not intervene militarily on the ground," Hollande said.

Hollande's meeting with Obama follows the attacks in Paris that killed 130 people at the national sports stadium, a concert venue and bars and restaurants in heart of the French capital. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Obama said he and Hollande agreed that more needed to be done to combat Islamic State's efforts

"U.S. assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria and we're going to keep stepping up that coordination," he said.

"We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our nation. We will win and groups like ISIL will lose," Obama said. REUTERS

"U.S. assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria and we're going to keep stepping up that coordination ... We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our nation ... We will win and groups like ISIL will lose." Obama

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Many House Republicans want refugee restrictions in must-pass spending bill

Seventy-four of the 246 House Republicans signed the letter, which was circulated by Republican Rep. Brian Babin.

Nearly one-third of the Republicans in the House of Representatives signed a letter calling on party leaders to ensure that a must-pass spending bill block any use of federal funding to resettle refugees from Syria and nearby countries, the bill's sponsor said on Tuesday.

The letter urges Speaker Paul Ryan and other House leaders to include a provision in an upcoming appropriations bill that would block President Barack Obama's plan to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees in the next year.

Passage of a bill with such language by the Republican-controlled Congress could set up a showdown with Obama, who has promised to veto a standalone bill passed by the House last week setting tighter controls on refugee resettlement.

Congressional aides are negotiating the $1 trillion-plus spending bill, facing a Dec. 11 deadline for it to pass the House and Senate and be signed into law by Obama to avoid a government shutdown.

Many Americans worry that the mostly Muslim newcomers would pose a national security threat, although they go through up to two years of screening before they are allowed into the country.

Syrian Refugees GETTY IMAGES

The Babin letter said Congress must "exercise greater authority" over the refugee resettlement program to ensure the safety of the U.S. public.

"ISIS [Islamic State]has repeatedly declared that they would infiltrate the refugee community that is leaving the Middle East and flooding into Europe. The November 13 attacks in Paris appear to have been a fulfillment of that threat," the letter said. REUTERS

US consumers and stores face off over depth of discounts

Target's 10 percent discount on a $30.49 pair of embroidered curtains was not nearly enough to entice Valerie Jenkins, shopping in Chicago the weekend before Thanksgiving.

She expects the 60-70 percent off she got during the last holidays.

Jenkins represents a problem for retailers going into what traditionally has been the peak shopping day of the holiday season, Black Friday. Big retailers are keeping discounts for the weekend following Thanksgiving at around the same level as last year, according to data supplied to Reuters by MarketTrak.

But polls by Reuters/Ipsos and some others show shoppers, who got even bigger discounts closer to Christmas last year, are cautious with their spending and willing to wait for deals.

The Reuters/Ipsos survey found more people planned to cut holiday spending than increase in every category surveyed: clothing, jewelry, electronics, food and toys, and that 46 percent felt they could wait longer in the season to buy because of faster shipping.

Black Friday shopping will help set the tone for the rest of the holiday season, signaling to retailers whether they need to drop prices or change promotions. REUTERS

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Smartphones may have role in rise of U.S. traffic deaths

The jump in 2015 fatalities follows a decline in annual traffic deaths to 32,675 last year, for a record low of 1.07 deaths per million vehicle miles traveled, according to NHTSA statistics.

The number of deaths from traffic accidents in the United States jumped 8.1 percent in the first half of 2015, suggesting smartphones and other driving distractions could be making America's roadways more dangerous, officials said Tuesday.

Preliminary government statistics, released during a Thanksgiving holiday week known for heavy traffic congestion, showed deaths rising to 16,225 in the January-June period at a rate more than double an increase in overall driving spawned by falling gasoline prices and a growing economy.

"The increase in smartphones in our hands is so significant, there's no question that has to play some role. But we don't have enough information yet to determine how big a role," said Mark Rosekind, who heads the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the federal government's auto-safety watchdog.

The increase in the first half of 2015 was the biggest six-month jump in traffic deaths reported since 1977, according to statistics. But officials cautioned that semiannual results can be subject to major revisions and noted that a comparable 7.9 percent increase in early 2012 led to a 4 percent rise for that year as a whole.

Officials said it was too early to identify contributing factors. But Rosekind told reporters that officials are looking at likely causes including distracted driving and the possibility lower gas prices have encouraged more driving among "risky drivers" such as teenagers.

Rosekind also criticized an absence of effective state laws that prohibit hand-held smartphones by drivers or require the use of seatbelts and motorcycle helmets.

The auto safety agency expects to unveil a program next year to target $500 million in federal safety grants at human factors that are responsible for 94 percent of motor vehicle crashes. REUTERS

Texting while driving GETTY IMAGES

BRIEF

Baltimore jury to be anonymous in police trial over man's death

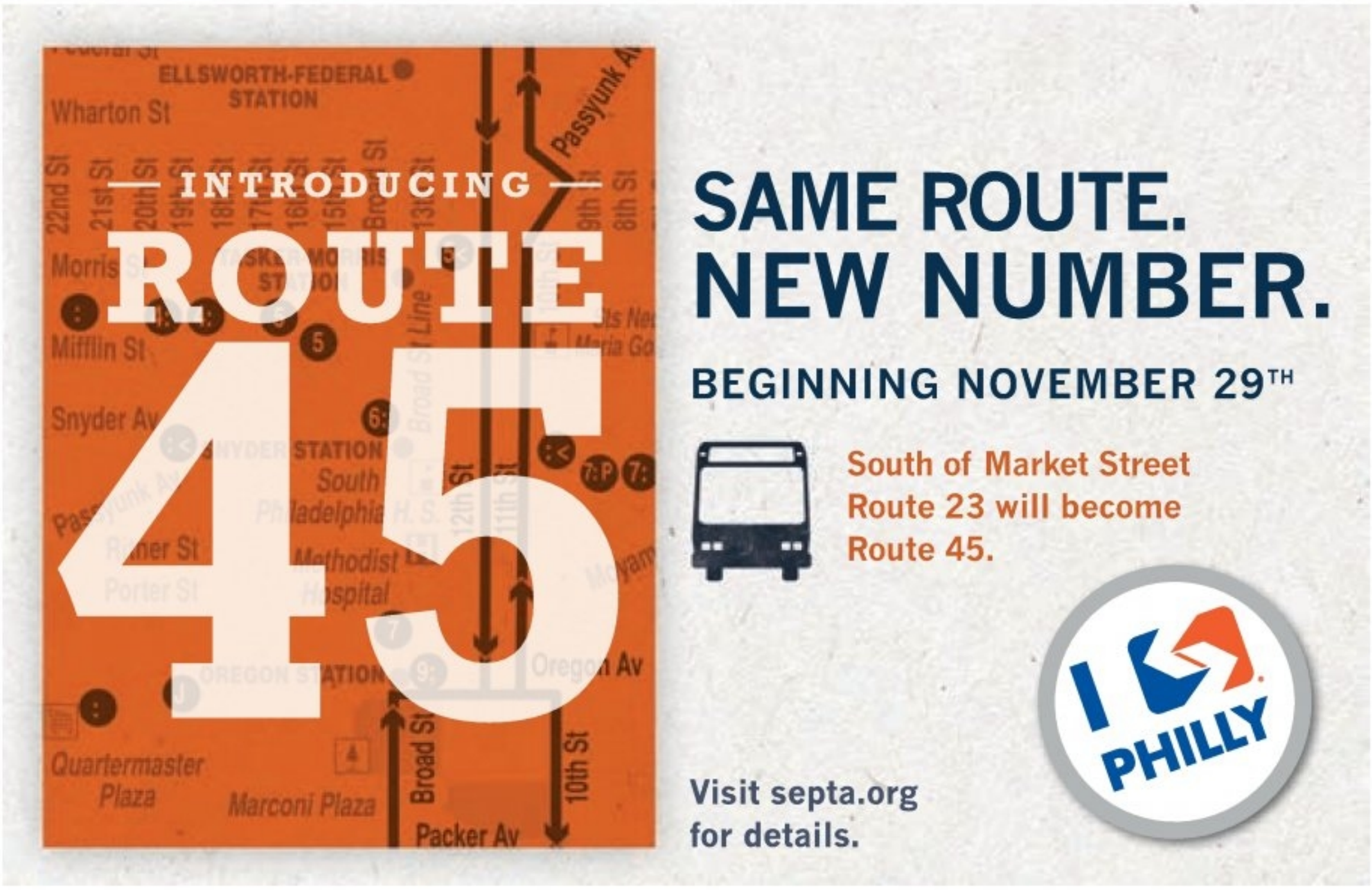
A Baltimore judge ordered that jurors remain anonymous in the trial of a police officer charged in the death of a black man from an injury while in custody, an incident that triggered protests and rioting.

Officer William Porter, 26, is the first of six Baltimore officers to face trial separately over the death of Freddie Gray in April. His trial in Baltimore is scheduled to start Monday.

Judge Barry Williams denied a defense motion to sequester jurors, but agreed to have them stay anonymous to prevent potential coercion or attempts to sway them.

"Jurors are to remain anonymous and known only to the judge," lawyers and court staff, he said, citing intense publicity surrounding the case. Williams said 75 to 80 potential jurors would be called.

Gray died from a spinal injury suffered in the back of a police transport van following his arrest, sparking protests, rioting and looting in the largely black city. It also added fuel to a national debate on police treatment of minorities. REUTERS



Turkey downs Russian warplane near Syria border

Putin livid, warns of "serious consequences."

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday insisted a Russian warplane shot down by a Turkish jet was flying over Syrian territory and did not pose any threat to Turkey. GETTY IMAGES

Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian border Tuesday, saying the jet had repeatedly violated its air space, in one of the most serious publicly acknowledged clashes between a NATO member country and Russia for half a century.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the plane had been attacked when it was 0.62 miles inside Syria and warned of "serious consequences" for what he termed a stab in the back administered by "the accomplices of terrorists."

Each country summoned a diplomatic representative of the other and NATO called a meeting of its ambassadors for Tuesday afternoon.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov canceled a visit to Turkey due Wednesday, and the defense ministry said it was preparing measures to respond to such incidents.

Footage from private Turkish broadcaster Haberturk TV showed the warplane going down in flames, a long plume of smoke trailing behind it as it crashed in a wooded part of an area known by Turks as "Turkmen Mountain."

> *"We will never tolerate such crimes like the one committed today."*
>
> Putin

Separate footage from Turkey's Anadolu Agency showed two pilots parachuting out of the jet before it crashed. A deputy commander of rebel Turkmen forces in Syria said his men shot both pilots dead as they came down.

A video sent to Reuters earlier appeared to show one of the pilots immobile and badly wounded on the ground. An official from the rebel group said he was dead.

But a Turkish government official told Reuters the pilots were believed still to be alive and that Ankara was working to secure their release from Syrian rebels.

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Smoke rises as the Syrian regime forces attack the region where Russian warplane downed by Turkey in Syria's northwestern Turkmen town of Bayirbucak near Turkey's border Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Russia's defense ministry said one of its Su-24 fighter jets had been downed in Syria and that, according to preliminary information, the pilots were able to eject. "For the entire duration of the flight, the aircraft was exclusively over Syrian territory," it said.

The Turkish military said the aircraft had been warned 10 times in the space of five minutes about violating Turkish air space. Officials said a second plane had also approached the border and been warned.

"The data we have is very clear. There were two planes approaching our border, we warned them as they were getting too close," another senior Turkish official told Reuters.

"We warned them to avoid entering Turkish air space before they did, and we warned them many times. Our findings show clearly that Turkish air space was violated multiple times. And they violated it knowingly," the official said. REUTERS

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Are robots the next financial advisors?

Experts weigh in on the pros and cons of forgoing a human financial advisor for a digital one.

What do you tell your financial adviser when you are leaving him or her for an algorithm? That kind of awkward conversation is taking place more frequently these days, thanks to the rise of robo-advisers, which have about $20.1 billion in worldwide assets under management for new entrants, according to research firm MyPrivateBanking. But can they really replace people?

The pros

Looking strictly at fees, robo-advisers offer certain advantages. Traditional financial planners charge around 1 percent or more of assets annually. The low-fee logic of robo-advisers may work admirably for young savers starting out. In fact many users are converted Do-It-Yourselfers or Millennials with little investable cash, rather than mid-career professionals who have switched from existing planners.

The cons

You may gain something by opting for low-fee robots but you lose the long-term financial planning aspect. "I had a client recently leave for a robo. I told them robos are not financial planners," says Kashif Ahmed, an advisor in Woburn, Mass. "A robo will not call you when markets are going through a rough patch, and you can't call a robo to discuss your protection needs, or to ensure your estate documents are in order."

As you age, and financial responsibilities start piling up, the advantages of dealing with an actual person become more evident. "At that point, when money has grown substantially, you may opt out of robo-investing and go find a real person," says Maggie Baker, a Philadelphia financial therapist and author of the book "Crazy About Money."

Of course, it is not always fees that cause breakups with financial planners. Far from it. In fact, the number-one reason cited by millionaires for switching advisers is due to them not returning client phone calls, according to a report from research firm Spectrem Group.

In cases like that, a robo-adviser is obviously no upgrade. After all, it is hard to get on the phone with an algorithm.

Having the 'talk'

The best advice for ditching your existing planner: Just be honest. It is likely that some negative event has caused you to look elsewhere — subpar returns, maybe, or a general lack of communication — and it could be something you can talk through and resolve.

In fact, thanks to technological advances, you may not have to break up at all. Many firms, like Vanguard and Charles Schwab Corp, are gravitating towards two-tiered solutions — offering robo-allocations as a starter level, but also providing flesh-and-blood advisory services as a premium option.

ISTOCK

With more investors considering robots to steer their finances, though, you cannot escape the regret and bitterness that linger over broken relationships.

"When a client decides to leave, I don't do anything," says Richard Colarossi, a financial planner. "If a client leaves to go to robo-adviser, let them go. My experience tells me that a majority of robo clients will shoot themselves in the foot."

REUTERS

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Sofia's suspiciously sober celebrating

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

During what was certainly the most heavily documented celebrity wedding of the decade, bride Sofia Vergara raised more than a few eyebrows by eschewing any celebratory Champagne, despite her marriage to Joe Manganiello being a huge party. So what gives? "The reception was so much fun. Even though so many people there were wasted, Sofia was not at all," a source says of the West Palm Beach, Florida, nuptials, according to Radar Online. "Either Sofia chose not to get drunk at the wedding out of respect for Joe" — who is 12 years sober — "or she is pregnant." Well, then. Which do we think it is? The groom's comments at the reception point to family planning: "Joe cannot wait to have children with her, and he said that they are going to be trying right away," the source adds. Maybe they got an early start on that.

the word

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Justin Theroux wants you to know his marriage is awesome

In case you were curious about how things are going with Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston now that they're a few months into their marriage, Theroux himself is here to tell you that everything is fantastic. Not to rub your face in it or anything. "It does feel different. I'm very happy," he tells In Touch. "She's beautiful. Not to be corny, but I constantly say that. We are having a great time." Oh, and according to Theroux the best part of married life is "getting to look at the person next to you every morning." Sheesh. Get a room, you two.

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Last time I smoked pot I signed up for Pinterest

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"Creed"

Director: Ryan Coogler
Stars: Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone
Rating: PG-13

• • • • •

"Creed," the seventh film to feature Sylvester Stallone's palooka Rocky Balboa, follows a struggling fighter. It has a fairly ludicrous big match between a mighty champ and a nobody. It has a training montage. It has a second-act health scare. It has a fight that could be read as a victory even if our hero doesn't technically win (and doubly so if he does). In other words, it ticks all the boxes of what made the "Rocky" films "Rocky" films.

But there's no Bill Conti score, no "Eye of the Tiger" and certainly no Paulie's robot from "Rocky IV." It's the first film with Rocky not written by Stallone himself but by "Fruitvale Station" writer and director Ryan Coogler. And Rocky isn't the hero. That's Michael B. Jordan's Adonis, the secret love child of Balboa's deceased frenemy Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers). The film will follow him as he comes to Philadelphia with little to his name — and, speaking of which, not telling anyone he's the son of the world's most famous fighter.

Michael B. Jordan makes an epic run in "Creed." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

But to say "Creed" doesn't want to be another "Rocky" would be disingenuous. More accurately, Coogler engages in a dialogue between delivering the franchise's expected goods and lighting off in new territories. It manages a neat trick: It's not a slavish re-creation nor even a straight-up reboot, but a film that thoughtfully, even movingly, engages with what revisiting this particular beloved franchise in 2015 means. It's fan fiction but not fan service.

Stallone's first time playing Rocky, in 1976, is one of those deeply lived-in turns whose greatness is easy to take for granted. Here, as Adonis' trainer, Stallone says almost everything with weary body language, with sad eyes, with a sad smile — all speaking to decades of regret and failure in addition to triumphs and happiness.

He fits right into a film that doesn't have a cynical bone in its body, that isn't simply trying to feed off our collective nostalgia, and for a series that is, at best, spotty, if always fascinating. With news that the "Star Wars" series may outlast us all, a film like "Creed" — which has one foot in the past, and one in the future — manages to not only be a worthy successor but remind us that life, not just movie franchises, always moves on. MP

'Legend' mostly coasts on two Tom Hardys

"Legend"

Director: Brian Helgeland
Stars: Tom Hardy, Emily Browning
Rating: R

• • • • •

Tom Hardy plays Reginald Kray opposite Tom Hardy as Ronnie Kray in the gangster movie "Legend." UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Plowing through a decade of criminal tomfoolery in the lives of East End Londoners Ronnie and Reginald Kray, "Legend" can't find a solid in to its sprawling true story. But it has a good hook. Or, at least, it has the right actor. It gives you double the Tom Hardy, cast as both the suave Reggie and the Cro-Magnon Ronnie, the latter a paranoid schizophrenic lifted from a much-needed psych ward stint through his brother's nudge-nudgey influence.

There's a lot to get through, but there's no angle, no way of organizing it around an idea. Still, it has a sense of humor. And it has Tom Hardy. He really does give two performances — indeed the twin extremes of his versatility. Reggie is all movie-star charisma, fitted with the actor's defiant sing-song delivery. Meanwhile, awkward loose cannon Ron rattles off indecipherable monologues in impenetrable geysers of pure noise.

Hardy's the movie's ace in the hole — the thing it can always fall back on when the story gets too knotted-up and when the movie eventually feels like it will never end. Hardy's twin turn is the kind of stunt one forgets is a stunt while still marveling at its audacity, even while mourning for a time when one wouldn't have required an entire Netflix series to make it work as a story. MP

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Pixar does one for the kids with 'The Good Dinosaur'

"The Good Dinosaur"

Director: Peter Sohn
Voices of: Raymond Ochoa, Jack Bright
Rating: PG

• • • • •

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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"The Good Dinosaur," about a physically stunted, eternally scared young Apotasaurus, only has a few jokes. But they're good. PIXAR

Earlier this year, Pixar released "Inside Out," which, despite its loud colors and funny characters, seemed primarily aimed at adults. What do kids even make of a movie about the death of childhood and the onslaught of neuroses, depression and existential dread? You can take comfort in "The Good Dinosaur," Pixar's second film of 2015, which is almost entirely for kids. It's simple and direct, complete with a basic, repeatedly reiterated lesson about overcoming fear.

Mind you, that doesn't make it lesser Pixar. In fact, it's a reminder that animated films can be modest. There's not even many jokes about its hero, young Arlo (voice of Raymond Ochoa), a scaredy-cat Apotasaurus born physically stunted, whose clumsiness and constant state of quivering fright is only occasionally played for laughs. When an accident sweeps him way downriver, far from home, he of course has to learn to man up, or at least make friends with a feral and savvy babbling caveboy (Jack Bright).

It helps that Arlo feels like an actual kid. He's voiced by one, and one who sounds genuinely scared and freaked out and fragile. Combine that with Arlo's bulging, sad eyes and his usually shaking body, and he's a figure of primo pathos.

The script doesn't give Arlo and Spot too many obstacles on their journey home, and most of the threats, like a clan of tyrannosauruses, led by a reliably Sam Elliott-y Sam Elliott, prove friendly. But the lack of saturation and the minimal humor makes it easier to get into this delicate (albeit monstrous) flower's petrified headspace — to stick with him and not be distracted by busy bits of business.

It also gives us plenty of time to gawk. We're used to animated photorealism, especially from Pixar, but the landscapes look absolutely real, even as the creatures are lovingly, refreshingly exaggerated. There's beauty everywhere, from an ominous pterodactyl attack from the clouds to a brilliant left-field drug trip sequence.

ALEX BAILEY

"Victor Frankenstein"

• • • • •

What if Igor had a girlfriend? What if he wasn't even a hunchback but just had a nasty abscess that needed draining? What if mad doctor Victor Frankenstein made the traditionally grotesque, pea-brained assistant his partner because Igor was also, by the way, an amateur scientific genius who cleaned up good if you directed him to a shower? But whatever happened to the actual, much cooler Igor who didn't become a London dandy? We live in a time when writers aren't content to respin the classics but must dramatically — which is not to say always creatively — rework them, for therein lies the path to true originality.

Thing is, these twists on old standards — like the recent "Pan" — are now as tired as the tales told time and time again, presuming we're tired of them at all. "You know the story," Daniel Radcliffe's Igor purrs in "Victor Frankenstein"'s opening seconds, then gives us time to groan before it removes all that was great and, more importantly, fun about an ageless brand.

But no matter. Here's a Frankenstein (James McAvoy) who's cheerfully insane and an Igor who bangs one of the "Downton Abbey" gals (Jessica Brown Findlay). McAvoy, to his credit, gives into the silliness, hamming and spitting like mad, eyes bulging inches above a deranged grin. Director Paul McGuigan likes to put McAvoy in garish closeups, though everything else tends to be a visual muddle, entire action scenes told in a riot of rain and electric bolts punctuated by cutaways to McAvoy cackling as he goes down with the ship. And Radcliffe's stammering rom-com Hugh Grant version of Igor gets old fast, while the monster, once he comes, is dispatched like the anticlimax he is. MP

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The eye of a whole

Michael B. Jordan didn't use a double for boxing scenes in the new "Rocky" spin-off "Creed" — and he has the scars to prove it.

MATT PRIGGE
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Michael B. Jordan has taken hits on screen before. He spent two seasons on "Friday Night Lights," where he had a double, though still did some of his own stunts. But that's nothing compared to "Creed," a spin-off and continuation of the "Rocky" saga, focused on Jordan's Adonis, the illegitimate secret son of deceased fighter Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers).

Adonis may team up with Sylvester Stallone's Rocky for a big fight, but Jordan — reuniting with his "Fruitvale Station" director Ryan Coogler — didn't want to just do another "Rocky." The duo wanted to make their own distinctive movie, that built off the legacy of a beloved franchise while building a future for its own, new hero. Not only that, they wanted a studio film that feels as raw and interested in people as the movie that broke them through into the mainstream.

Rocky is a Philadelphia institution.

He's huge. When you're doing exterior scenes with [Stallone], there are hundreds of fans lined up on the side. After you yell cut they're like, "Rocky! Sly!" It's like, "Damn, the whole city is out here." It's consistent. They followed us around.

Despite continuing an iconic film series, this still looks and feels a lot like "Fruitvale Station." Ryan doesn't completely overhaul his style.

Ryan has a unique take on people. He likes to see what they do when they're alone, when they're by themselves, when they're thinking. He lets scenes breathe. That's not seen too often in cinema, that directors let characters have little moments. It doesn't have to be dialogue-filled all the time. Sometimes two people sitting there in their own space is more interesting than watching people talking the entire time.

Then there's the boxing. You did that yourself,

Michael B. Jordan's Adonis does an epic run in the "Rocky" spin-off "Creed." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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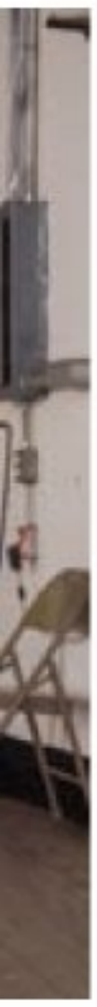

What Sly said

Sylvester Stallone on his initial thoughts when filmmaker Ryan Coogler came to him with the idea of "Creed."

"No," Stallone says. "No, no, no. Because it was such a struggle to get the last one done. I was so happy ['Rocky Balboa'] was the conclusion of the 'Rocky' story. I thought we don't need to go any further with it. And I dismissed the idea."

But Coogler was adamant. He kept coming back, over a year. "I thought, 'My story is told, but there's a whole other generation — two generations, since 'Rocky' started — whose story has not been told.' Then I finally agreed to do it after I was shamed for my narrow-mindedness."

and there's even one fight done in a single take. A lot of times long takes are about admiring the technique, but here it's about admiring the actors.

That one could have failed in a heartbeat. There were a few times when we thought, "Are we going to have to cut this up?" But I love one-takes. It's a connection you make with the audience. When you cut it's a blink. They stop. They say, "I'm out of it." Sometimes you can keep people locked in on a situation. You get so much more emotion out of people.

Are you still boxing?

I'm still boxing. Got the knuckles to prove it. [Shows a bruise on his knuckles] That one's kind of infected, actually. Got to do something about that. [Laughs] It's like picking up a new craft, a new toy. You want to keep playing with it, keep experimenting with it. It's cool to get back on the heavy bag, the speed bag, jump rope, go through some rounds on the pad. Just to stay sharp. It's good cardio. It gives you discipline and focus. Exercise is a great release.

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Exclusively Jill Scott

Jilly from Philly comes home for a holiday concert.

CHRIS JORDAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Philly singing legend Jill Scott made music listeners across the country pause during her striking rendition of Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit" at the "Shining A Light: A Concert For Progress on Race in America" concert in Los Angeles.

The show, which also featured Bruce Springsteen, John Legend, Zac Brown Band, Big Sean and more, was broadcast on multiple networks on Nov. 20.

"It was a pretty extraordinary day," Scott says. "I was asked to sing 'Strange Fruit' and the song is so relevant to so many things today. I recently spent some time in Mississippi and I noticed how the plantations have now become bed and breakfasts and it was so insensitive, actually, given that so much hurt and so many atrocities took place."

"Strange Fruit" was recorded by Holiday in 1939 as a protest of the lynchings of African-Americans in the South.

"It hurt because I'm pretty sure no one would have tea outside of Auschwitz," Scott says. "When I performed the song, I felt myself standing on the porches [of the plantations] and I could literally see human beings hanging from those trees. I took that approach [to the song]. I wanted it to hurt because it hurts."

Scott has been an artist of resonance since her days in the city's spoken word open mic scene. The North Philly native was discovered by Questlove of the Roots. Her first album, 2000's "Who Is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds Vol. 1," was a smash.

Scott's most recent record, the sultry, smart and soulful "Woman," debuted at No. 1 this summer, and she's been busy acting too, with a recent appearance on the BET breakout hit "Being Mary Jane."

Now, it's time for a hometown party as she headlines the WDAS Holiday Jam on Saturday at the Wells Fargo Center. New Edition, SWV, Tyrese and fellow hometown gal Jazmine Sullivan are also on the bill. "I can't wait for the love," Scott says.

Jill Scott, left, and SWV, above, are performing in the WDAS Holiday Jam, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center. Tickets are $39.50 to $149.50 at Livenation.com. ENTERTAINMENT ONE MUSIC

Also on the bill

SWV have a new hit single, the sultry "Ain't No Man." What they no longer have is their reality TV show, "SWV: Reunited." The group announced that its We TV run has ended after two seasons.

We TV has been mum on the situation.

"When we started production on that show we thought it would be a way to introduce our fans to another side of us, but it wasn't the side we wanted them to see," says member Tamara "Taj" Johnson-George. "In our minds we think it hurt us more than it helped."

The second-season premiere of "SWV: Reunited" scored over a million viewers in August 2014. But, "no more acting," says member Cheryl "Coko" Clemons.

TV aside, the New York City-raised songbirds — whose 1990s hits include "Weak," "You're the One," and "I'm So Into You" — will play in the WDAS Holiday Jam.

The Sisters also have the upcoming album, "Still," due Feb. 5 on Entertainment One Music. That date is also New Edition member Bobby Brown's birthday, Johnson-George notes.

"I didn't plan that," says Johnson-George, a big New Edition fan, "but God must have heard me!"

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Thanksgroovineve.com
No holiday in Philadelphia escapes the bar crawl treatment. This one kicks off at 8 p.m. and stops by 26 locations. Your wristband, for $7.50, gets you free entry into all of them, plus drink specials like $3 Buds and $5 Jager shots. Start the evening at one of several designated check-in locations listed on the crawl's website.

Manayunk's Gravy Train

Upcomingevents.com
Manayunk is doing its own bar crawl, with six spots, all near each other, participating: Bourbon Blue, Cactus, Derek's, JD McGillicuddy's, Kildare's and Mad River. One ticket ($5 to $20) gets you into all of them.

Silk City

435 Spring Garden St.
Silkcityphilly.com
Flygirrl is hosting the Gravy party at Silk City, with DJs Mike Nyce, Mr. Sonny James and Aktive, who's toured with Janet Jackson, spinning a mix of hip-hop, house, soul and more. Cover is $8 and women get in free until 11 p.m.

Stratus Lounge

433 Chestnut St. (atop the Hotel Monaco)
Stratuslounge.com
Bring a group of friends and toast to the holidays with bubbly at chic rooftop lounge Stratus. On Thanksgiving Eve, the sparkling special is a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label for $80 or Rosé for $125.

Rumor

1500 Sansom St.
Rumorphilly.com
There's no way not to dance when Grammy-winning international DJ Dubfire is bringing the house and techno beats. Salvo will also be providing part of the night's soundtrack, with Aiden Scott playing the Lev Room. Cover is $15, or pay $30 for entry plus an open bar from 10 p.m. to midnight.

The Barbary

951 Frankford Ave.
Thebarbary.org
The holidays get a dark twist at The Barbary's Transmission party. Goth, new wave and electro are the sounds you'll be dancing to late into the night. Cover is $5.

ICandy

254 S. 12th St.
Clubicandy.com
This Gayborhood hotspot is going all out, with DJs, go-go dancers (both men and women) and drink specials until 11 p.m., including $3 Coors and $6 Absolut cocktails.

Zee Bar

100 Spring Garden St.
Zee-bar.com
DJ Ronnie D is providing the music for this pre-Thanksgiving bash that goes until 3 a.m. There's free parking around Zee Bar, but since you're probably going to be drinking, Uber or Lyft is the much better bet.

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home

Trendy, non-cheesy holiday decor

Celebrate the season in style with these fun holiday decorations.

EMILY LAURENCE
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With a winter this mild, decking the halls is pretty crucial for getting into the holiday frame of mind. But celebrating the spirit of the season doesn't mean your whole apartment has to be covered in red and green. We scoured our favorite home decor stores to find the most cheerful, cool decorations that won't break the bank.

Pom pom garland
$38, FURBISHSTUDIO.COM

Stargazer cascade fall, $48 FOR 4 FT, $128 FOR 7 FT, SHOPTERRAIN.COM

Pantone ornaments, $15.50 EACH, BRIT.CO

Pink 2-foot by 23-inch Christmas tree, $45, TARGET

Minimal metal tree, $39, URBAN OUTFITTERS

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Going modern in Brewerytown

Eastern Lofts will have a communal courtyard PROVIDED

A rendering of a kitchen at Eastern Lofts PROVIDED

Development reaches to the far edge of the neighborhood with Eastern Lofts.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If you're searching for soaring ceilings but don't have a soaring budget, you might find what you're looking for at the far edge of Brewerytown.

Eastern Lofts, set in a historic building at Cecil B. Moore and West Glenwood, should be ready for tenants early next year.

The building is the former American Railway Express Company Garage, erected in 1922 and now on the National Register of Historic Places. It's being turned into 37 lofts that will preserve elements of the original building, like ceilings reaching as high as 17 feet and exposed brick. But getting those features at the Eastern Lofts price point — rents are $850 to $1,750 — means stepping outside the comfort zone of Center City. Way outside.

"We're forging forward and pioneering in a way," says realtor Stephen Ferguson of Stephen Sells Philly, who is marketing the property. "It's the north side of Brewerytown, on the grounds of Fairmount Park and across the street from Strawberry Mansion. It's an area that hasn't seen as much development in the past. [But] there's a lot going on there now."

Just in case being a short stroll away from Philadelphia's largest public park isn't enough access to green space, the building will have its own elevated courtyard equipped with outdoor seating, dining tables and heat lamps.

"Outdoor space is a big thing in Philadelphia," says Ferguson. "It's an exciting component for what I envision the future residents will be really attracted to, and privacy is always preferred."

Other building amenities include a fitness area, bike storage on the ground floor and a dog run. Inside the apartments, you'll find hardwood floors and stainless-steel appliances. Commercial space at Eastern Lofts will include a cafe to fit in with Brewerytown's up-and-coming vibe.

"There's an emerging corridor along Girard Avenue with coffee shops, pubs and restaurants," says Ferguson.

"It has some really unique options when it comes to a sense of community."

The details

Eastern Lofts will include one-, two- and three-bedroom loft-style apartments, ranging from 457 to 1,218 square feet. The largest unit has three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

More than half of the apartments are bi-level. "It's a modern design and aesthetic," says Ferguson. "It's a funky and cool urban loft space."

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Covington improves, Sixers stay the same

The Sixers continue to search for answers as they start the season 0-15.

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It was just a matter of time.

Robert Covington knocked down 167 shots from beyond the arc last season for the 76ers. He was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy season.

In 2015-16, the frustration has mounted with 15 consecutive losses and 25 straight dating to the end of last season.

Already dealing with some nagging injuries, Covington also dealt with a major shooting slump. He missed 18-straight 3-pointers and looked like a shooter who hadn't played much.

Ever so slowly, Covington has found his rhythm, going 6 for 15 from 3-point territory after the 0-for-18 start.

The Sixers continue to lose and have dropped the first three games on this six-game road trip. But at least Covington has started to slow glimpses of his old shooting form. At some point, he's likely to get hot and carry the Sixers to that elusive win.

"It's still going to take some time," Covington said in a near-empty locker room after a loss to the Indiana Pacers last week. "I've only played two games since my injury and it's going to take a little time to get back to where I was and in playing shape. But it's just a matter of time. This road trip will help me out because I'll get more minutes under my belt and that will help me get my rhythm back."

"It's going to take time. Anything I can do, I'm going to be that leader that they're asking for." Robert Covington

Before the road trip began in Charlotte, Covington missed all nine 3-pointers against the Dallas Mavericks and Pacers.

"Robert hasn't played and he's trying to force things," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "Everybody is trying to force things and probably trying to do too much."

Losing this many games has to be difficult to stomach.

"It's definitely hard, but being one of the oldest active players on this team, I'm working to keep us together," Covington said. "It has been tough losing so many games. A lot of guys aren't used to it."

With such a young team — the Sixers feature one of the youngest rosters in league history — Covington has been asked to be a team leader at the age of 24.

"Coach talks to me a lot about that and he tells me this is going to be my team and I need to take on a leadership role," Covington said. "I've been in plenty of leadership roles and I'm trying to do the right thing and lead by example."

The Sixers have not won a game since last March. GETTY IMAGES

Keep in mind that this is an undrafted player leading by example for a team mired in losing. Covington embraces the challenge and is looking forward to better days ahead.

"Sure, it's tough," Covington said. "I'm confident in my ability. I know the shots will fall. We'll get there as a team."

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (10-0)

The Patriots have endured two of their closest victories the past two weeks, but those victories leave them five clear at the top of their division with six games left. With Dion Lewis' out, James White emerged as Belichick's newest offensive toy.

No. 2

Panthers (10-0)

Have the Panthers and the Patriots switched winning methods? Passing offenses? Suddenly it's New England that can barely find wide receivers to put on the field and Carolina who now have five different players catching touchdown throws from Cam Newton. Let's give Newton and Tom Brady MVPs.

No. 3

Cardinals (8-2)

The Bengals secondary was banged up and Carson Palmer took full advantage against his former team. Firmly the best of the teams with defeats at the moment, Arizona will have a chance to further that status before the end of the season, when Minnesota and Green Bay come to town.

No. 4

Bengals (8-2)

Sure, it's two losses in a row, but don't write off the Bengals just yet. A stupid penalty in an away-game loss sure sounds like an appropriate difference between the No. 3 and 4 teams. Suddenly, however, that two game lead over Pittsburgh doesn't look as safe.

No. 5

Broncos (8-2)

This was an encouraging performance following the very discouraging performance last week. Regardless of Peyton's health going forward, Denver appears to have a quarterback, in Brock Osweiler, who can at least manage a game while this defense wins it. That very realistically may be all they need.

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No. 6

Packers (7-3)

The Green Bay running game finally surfaced at the most opportune moment. Facing falling two games behind the upstart Vikings in the divisional race, the Packers responded by righting their ship after three straight losses. Eddie Lacy tallied exactly 100 yards for his first 100-yard game of the year.

No. 7

Steelers (6-4)

Not a bad bye week for Pittsburgh, watching Cincinnati lose once more to fall within two games of the division. There's no room for Pittsburgh to focus on Week 14's rematch in Cincy however, not with games against Seattle and Indianapolis before then.

No. 8

Vikings (7-3)

The game was closer than the score, but it was Adrian Peterson's sixth fumble of the season that gave the game away even as he became the first back in the NFL with 1,000 yards this season. Teddy Bridgewater was pursued mercilessly and sacked six times by the Packers.

No. 9

Chiefs (5-5)

The Chiefs continue to emerge as the hottest team in the AFC wild card race, blasting San Diego for their fourth straight victory. In those four victories the defense has allowed exactly 39 points. Don't forget three of their losses were by a score or less as well.

No. 10

Bills (5-5)

This was a strong performance by a team that isn't on the same level as New England, but is in the thick of the AFC wild card race. With games remaining against the Chiefs, Texans and Jets, they'll have a big hand to play in the way that race shapes up.

No. 11

Colts (5-5)

Matt Hasselbeck is 3-0 as the Colts starter this season. Andrew Luck is eyeing a mid-December return, but let's say the Colts continue to win until then, making Hasselbeck 6-0 and Luck 2-5. Any scenario where a healthy Luck isn't on the field for the Colts is still hard to imagine.

No. 12

Seahawks (5-5)

Seattle continues to A) beat bad teams, and B) beat San Francisco, newly one and the same. Thomas Rawls' 209-yard gashing of the Niners was his third 100-yard game this season, and two more than Marshawn Lynch has. Rawls has 200 more yards than Lynch this year.

No. 13

Texans (5-5)

The Texans' game of musical chairs at quarterback will continue Bill O'Brien says, when Brian Hoyer is healthy enough to play again. And it probably should, T.J. Yates is 2-0, but Hoyer was playing fine before he got hurt, and the Texans sure paid the price the last time they went away from him too early.

No. 14

Buccaneers (5-5)

Jameis Winston just became the second rookie ever to throw five touchdown passes in a single game, and at one point Doug Martin had set a new record for rushing yards against the Eagles, before being tackled for a loss and finishing with 235, two yards shy of Emmitt Smith's old mark.

No. 15

Giants (5-5)

It's a toss-up who New York must be most worried about as the threat to their NFC East lead. Washington, who they face this week? Philadelphia, who they get the last week of the year? Dallas, who they have finished playing and can do nothing but watch while Tony Romo attempts to rack up the wins?

Best of the rest

- **16 — Jets (5-5):** Two straight losses and 1-4 in their last five games aren't great signs for the Jets, especially when three of those losses have come to Houston, Buffalo and Oakland.
- **17 — Bears (4-6):** Jeremy Langford ran for just 25 yards on 13 carries and finished as the Bears leading rusher in a loss to Denver last week.
- **18 — Falcons (6-4):** If Atlanta could just start winning again their record would make them a tempting team to fill up that dragging bottom of our top 10. But they can't. They're 1-4 in their last five, and Matt Ryan has eight interceptions over their last six games..
- **...24 — Eagles (4-6):** Multiple times this season, after victories over the Jets, Saints and Cowboys, we thought the Eagles might be close to turning a corner and becoming the team the pre-season advertised. The team on display in this loss wasn't the real Eagles. But that preseason team? That's not them either.

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3 Things to watch for as Eagles get ready for Turkey Day game

The Eagles have a perfect record on Thanksgiving. Will it continue?

EVAN MACY
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evan.macy@metro.us

Two weeks ago, the Eagles thought they would be suiting up to play on Thanksgiving with a chance to solidify their chances at winning the NFC East.

But after back-to-back home losses to mediocre teams from Florida and falling back by a game to the 5-5 Giants, the 4-6 Eagles are now looking to simply stay afloat and hope the Giants falter worse than they have.

After last week's 45-17 debacle against the Buccaneers, the defense is glad to have a short week. It allows them to turn the page and focus on the future.

"It was draining to lose like that, to prepare like that," defensive coordinator Billy Davis said, "and all of it implodes at once. It was humbling."

With Eagles fans (the ones who haven't turned yet) hoping the team has already reached bottom, there is nowhere for them to go but up.

1

Bouncing back

The Eagles defense was third against the run through six games. Since then they've dropped all the way to 28th of 32 teams.

Luckily for them, the Lions are dead last in the NFL with just 711 rushing yards through 10 games. It should be a favorable matchup for the Birds, who have a relatively effective secondary.

Davis told reporters Tuesday that the team is focused on stopping Detroit's veteran receivers (like Calvin Johnson and Golden Tate). He also noted that rookie running back Ameer Abdullah is growing as an NFL player.

"We've got a challenge," the coach said.

The last time the Eagles and Lions faced off, it was a huge Philadelphia victory, at home, in a blizzard. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2

Who's starting at quarterback?

Monday, when reporters asked Lane Johnson who would start at quarterback, the offensive tackle said he expected Mark Sanchez to be behind center.

With Chip Kelly mum on the subject, offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur said Sam Bradford, who is recovering from a shoulder injury and concussion, ran some plays with the first-team offense in practice and has cleared the concussion protocol.

So who will be starting Thursday?

Sam Bradford

"We're going to get all the quarterbacks ready to go," Shurmur said Tuesday. "Today is a walk-through. ... Need to see who's healthy."

So if Bradford is healthy, will he be back on the field? Stay tuned.

3

Another happy Thanksgiving?

The Eagles are 6-0 on Thanksgiving Day, with their most recent victory coming just a year ago in a breakout 33-10 win over the Cowboys. The Eagles have, in recent years, been a team that relishes the limelight and has played better in nationally televised games.

Could that possibly happen again, to a team with so much disarray as the 2015 Eagles have?

"We are going to get a chance to play on Thanksgiving, which is going to be great," Sanchez said, who was the architect of the Eagles Turkey Day triumph last season. "You get to have your family back home watching and we will get like a mini bye week after that to get guys healthy. And this could be the start of something good."

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Price scores in bunches for La Salle

The Explorers boast one of the top offensive producers in all of college basketball.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

For the time being, the NCAA's leading scorer resides off of 20th and Olney Avenue in North Philadelphia. Averaging 29.3 points so far, junior guard Jordan Price has been sensational for the undefeated La Salle Explorers (3-0).

On Monday, Price poured in 33 points on 11 for 14 shooting in an 83-75 victory over Lafayette (1-3). He was just one point away from tying his career-high of 34.

"He has always been highly recruited, highly thought of and highly talented," Explorers coach John Giannini said of Price. "He's matured, he's grown, he's become a better overall player and he's kept himself in great shape. He deserves credit for being in the shape he is and being the better overall player he is, but the scoring thing … I think he's [been doing] that since coming out of the hospital after being born."

Price is nearly doubling his scoring output from a season ago (17.2 points) while increasing his numbers across the board. Price credits much of his early success to his teammates.

La Salle will face Penn Wednesday at 7 p.m. GETTY IMAGES

"In practice, we just work on finding each other," Price said. "I have to give credit to my teammates. They found me when I was open. I was happy to make the shots so then I could give them assists."

He won't have much rest this week. La Salle faces Penn (3-1) Wednesday before playing Rowan (2-3) on Saturday. Two wins would give La Salle its best start since the 2005-06 season.

"My main focus as a captain is to lead this team and be happy for everybody," Price said. "That's what makes me most excited, when my young guys like Tony [Washington] step up."

Washington, a sophomore forward, shined on Monday, notching 14 points, nine rebounds and two blocks in 21 minutes. He missed La Salle's previous two games with a concussion that he suffered in practice. In the lineup for the first time all year, he impressed his coaches and teammates.

"Tony being here last year and getting his feet wet in some games made a big difference," Giannini said. "He was terrific. [He made a] big impact in terms of his role and big impact in terms of our depth."

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Hexagon Word

Clues:

1. Boasts
2. Frozen juice dessert
3. Hand-held PC
4. Styles
5. Sits on heels
6. Self-important

Use the clues to fill in the spaces in the numbered hexagons. Each answer runs clockwise but can start anywhere in the shape. Where hexagons touch, they have the same letter. We've given you the first answer. The letters in the middle hexagon reveal a mystery keyword.

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CRI	THI	CAL
MAN	RAP	ESS
NAU	LIS	HED
NEW	MEL	ISM
PUB	LEN	IST
SHA	TIC	PER
THE	NEQ	TED
UNE	SEA	TLY
VIO	SPA	UIN

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Clues:

1. Unscrupulous
2. Treatment giver
3. Put in print
4. Unabashed
5. With vehemence
6. Disapproving remark
7. Sickened
8. Gazette

Take a set of letters from each column and combine them to form a nine-letter answer to each clue. Once finished, the remaining sets of letters will spell out another nine-letter word. This is your answer

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Across

1 Moor
6 Ruby and Sandra
10 Goodbye, to Gaius
14 Kate's TV roomie
15 Enthralled
16 Periods
17 All lathered up
18 Territory
19 Roams around
20 PBS relative
21 Trunk item (2 wds.)
24 Shrimp —
26 Hair tints
27 Pindar forte
28 Liverpudlians, e.g.
30 Sky pilot
33 Lop off branches
34 Edge a doily
37 On a rampage
38 Murphy's Law word
39 Bone below the elbow
40 License plate
41 Cubbyholes
42 Atahualpa subject
43 — diem!
44 MV divided by V
45 Raid
48 Did a slow burn
52 Stony sweets? (2 wds.)
55 Fish roe
56 La — Tar Pits
57 Mete out
58 Wife of Menelaus
60 Not fatty
61 — fixe
62 Plain as day
63 This, to Pedro
64 Right after
65 Squander

Down

1 Didn't yet
2 Split to join
3 Danger signal
4 Gratuity
5 Beatles tune (2 wds.)
6 Serious theater
7 Lawman Wyatt
8 Rapier
9 Featuring
10 Human herbivores
11 Swift steeds
12 Punch server
13 Double curves
22 Suffix for forfeit
23 Commend
25 Kind of chop
28 Flat busted
29 Skedaddles
30 Dab on
31 GP group
32 Iditarod puller
33 Shore up
34 RN's forte
35 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
36 Caramel-colored
38 Made time for (2 wds.)
39 BTU part
41 Table salt
42 Rink event (2 wds.)
43 Beach amenity
44 So-so grade
45 Walk slowly
46 Weight deductions
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49 Apertures
50 Goolagong rival
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54 Mr. Trebek
59 Spacewalk, to NASA

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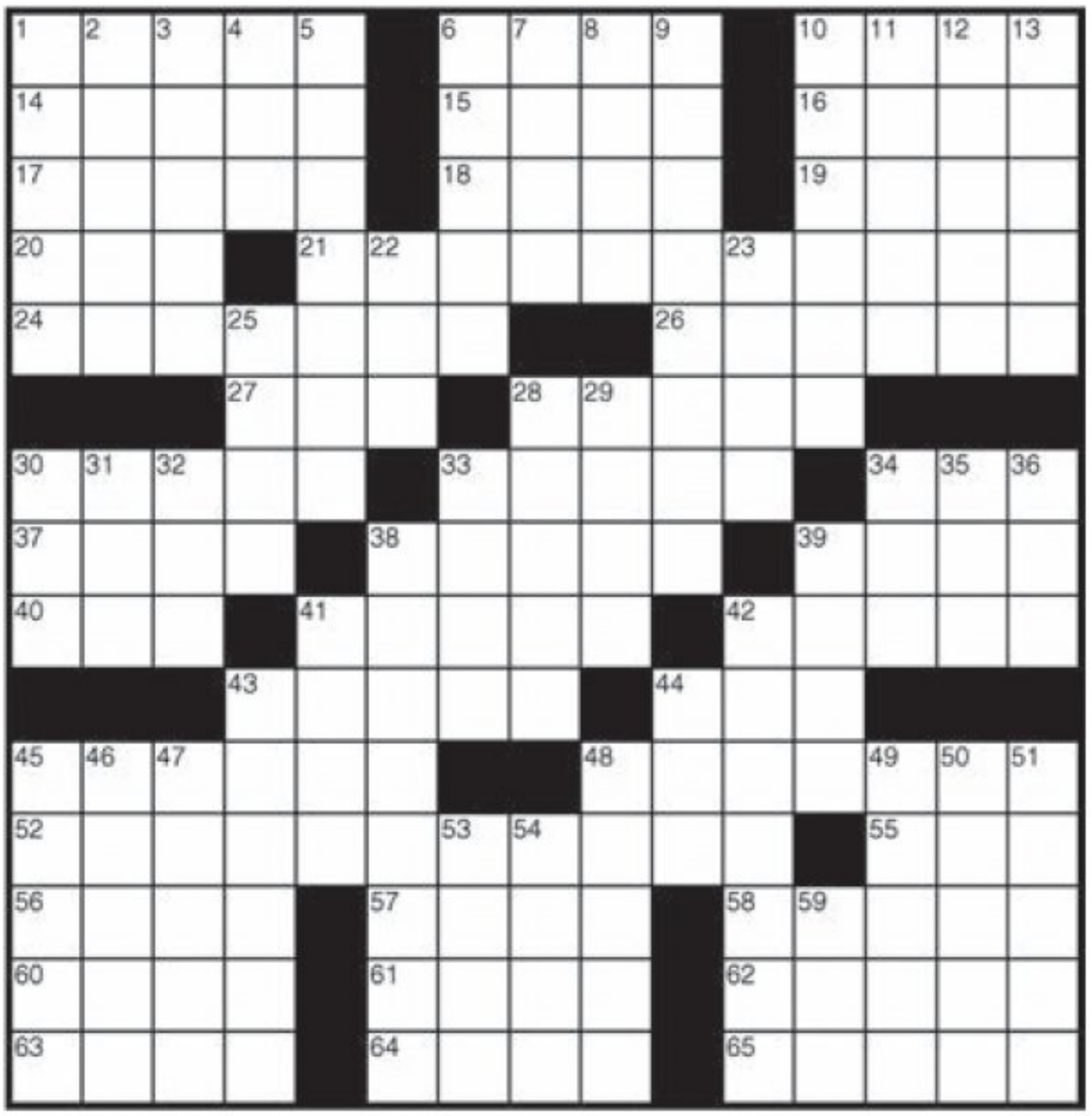

games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Love is in the stars. Reconnect with old friends. An email or phone call will open a door that has been closed for a long time.

Taurus Deal with sensitive matters before they escalate into big predicaments. An issue that seems hard to decipher will become clear.

Gemini Stick to your principles. You may be flattered by an enticing offer, but regrets will follow if you don't play by the rules.

Cancer Resist the urge to voice your opinions, especially with business colleagues. Offer carefully considered solutions for things to move ahead.

Leo You are regarded for your willingness to help those in need. Don't be surprised if someone is keeping an eye on your good deeds.

Virgo You have a lot on your plate. Proceed with caution, or a damaging mishap will occur. Keep up to date with medical, legal and financial matters.

Libra Look for an inexpensive way to make your living space more appealing. Presenting an inviting atmosphere will make you feel good.

Scorpio Careful study of your plans for the coming year should be a priority. Unsatisfying partnerships should be reconsidered and dealt with.

Sagittarius Keeping busy will help you handle stress caused by personal issues. Don't let relationship problems cut into your professional productivity.

Capricorn Social gatherings will provide a welcome outlet from work troubles. Make an effort to spend more time with friends and loved ones.

Aquarius Financial security should be a priority. Sticking to a strict budget and reducing your expenses will be necessary to avoid problems with creditors.

Pisces What you accomplish now will set the stage for future prospects. If you do the groundwork, success will be yours. EUGENIA LAST

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easy

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7			6			2	8	
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	2				9			4
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5			3		4	8		

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Mealey's FURNITURE OUTLET

2 DAYS ONLY!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
Noon - 5pm

We Restock for Saturday!

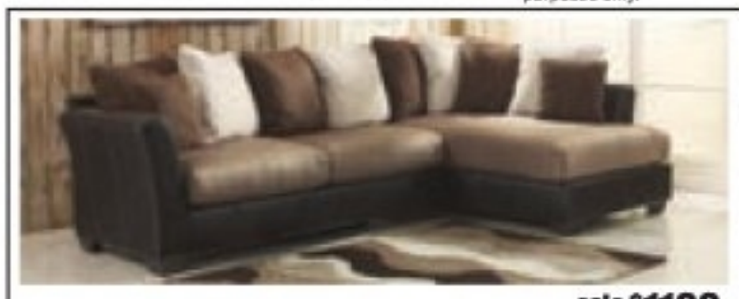
GREAT MERCHANDISE! UP TO 80% OFF!

Bring a truck or van. Everything is take-with or must be picked up within 48 hours of the sale. Some assembly required. Don't forget your rope and blankets! Everything sold "As-Is". All sales are final. Images are for illustration purposes only.

$25 OFF* ANY DINING TABLE

*Restrictions apply. Valid at Mealey's Outlet only. $25 OFF your dining table purchase of $95. One coupon per household. Offers may not be combined. No cash value. Must cut and present coupon at time of purchase. Only valid November 27th & 28th. Styles will vary. Does not include dining sets. Not valid on chairs.

Bistro 3 Piece Dining Set
Grey undertones and a rich, chocolate finish create an inviting dining area that is right on trend.
sale $499
Slash ~~$299~~
Final $195



Masoli Mocha 2 Piece Sectional
sale $1199
Slash ~~$999~~
Final $695

LIMITED QUANTITIES!

Parker Glider Recliner

The Parker Glider Recliner will be the favorite chair in your den or family room. Covered in a thick biscuit leather, this glider recliner looks more like a chair than your typical recliner since there is no handle involved. Simply push back to recline in comfort and style.

sale $1049
Slash ~~$599~~
Final $395

Chad Youth Collection

Full Bed sale $499 Slash ~~$325~~ Final $155	Queen Bed sale $699 Slash ~~$375~~ Final $165
Dresser/Mirror sale $799 Slash ~~$545~~ Final $225	Chest sale $499 Slash ~~$285~~ Final $165

Riley 42" Entertainment Console
sale $349
Slash ~~$199~~
Final $95

Mattress MADNESS!

2014 DISCONTINUED & FLOOR SAMPLE BLOWOUT!

Twin Sets from $195
Queen Firm Sets from $295
Queen Plush Sets from $395
Queen Memory Foam Sets from $495
Queen Super Pillow Top Sets from $595

Chic Bedroom
A LOT of look for a LOW price!

Queen Bed sale $699 Slash ~~$375~~ Final $165

Nightstand sale $279 Slash ~~$175~~ Final $65	5 Drawer Chest sale $499 Slash ~~$285~~ Final $175	Dresser & Mirror sale $799 Slash ~~$545~~ Final $215	King Bed sale $879 Slash ~~$575~~ Final $195

1001 New Ford Mill Road - Morrisville, PA 19067 - mealeysfurniture.com - (215) 736-9800

DIRECTIONS VIA ROUTE 1 | **From PA:** Take Route 1 North to the Route 13 South exit. **From NJ:** Take Route 1 South to the Route 13 South exit. **Then:** Take Route 13 South to the Tyburn Road East exit. The first traffic light is New Ford Mill Road, make a right. Outlet is 3/4 of a mile down the road on the left.